

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 3, 2005, **KENNETH W. DEROSSETT**, a/k/a “Spaz,” age 29, of Grand Tower, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. DEROSSETT, who had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to 60 months’ imprisonment, 5 years’ supervised release, and was fined \$300.

According to court documents, the investigation established that between February 2002, and May 18, 2004, DEROSSETT and ten other co-defendants were involved in the manufacture of methamphetamine in Grand Tower, Illinois. The ten other co-defendants have previously been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 37 to 135 months. Three co-defendants received enhanced sentences based on the presence of firearms and four co-defendants received enhanced sentences because they used juveniles during the methamphetamine conspiracy.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Grand Tower Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney’s Office, Jackson County States Attorney’s Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Carbondale Police Department, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.